Facilitating the “Pivot”

Applying Feminist Pedagogy to Interdisciplinary Studies

How can praxis designed by feminist pedagogy inform interdisciplinary efforts in education, research, and more?

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Interdisciplinarity: what is it?

Interdisciplinary education aims to develop the critical thinking skills necessary for holistic comprehension of issues.

- Develops abilities to:
  - Think conceptually
  - Identify and solve problems
  - Understand other value systems
  - Evaluate alternatives and decide on course of action
  - Change one’s opinion in light of the facts

- Key aims of interdisciplinarity:
  1. Ability to understand and value alternative perspectives
  2. Facilitating cooperation and collaboration

- Obstacles for interdisciplinarity:
  - Danger in potential superficiality, rootlessness
  - Difficulty of learning world views and assumptions of various disciplines
  - Overcoming terminological, methodological differences
  - Effective communication of ideas
Feminist Pedagogy: what it offers

- Create learning environments where competition is reduced and cooperation encouraged
- Change the power distribution to counteract domination and hierarchy
- Share knowledge that ties in with learners’ lives
- Value intuition and emotions as valid ways of knowing
- Take experience as a source of knowledge
- Demystify the construction of knowledge
- Transmitting the necessary intellectual tools to build up critique
- Use of verbal and written language which respects diversity
- Work towards the transformation of education
## Applications for Interdisciplinary Efforts

Feminist theories can be used to analyze any institution, practice, reform, goal

| • Challenge to traditional academic structures |
| • Alternative perspectives |
| • Multiple forms of knowledge |
| • Cross-cultural insight |
| • Communal pedagogy |
| • Critical (self-)reflection |
Works Cited